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(12)

### **EUROPÄISCHE PATENTANMELDUNG**

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(30) Priorität: 07.06.2000 DE 20010037 U 26.05.2000 DE 20009395 U (71) Anmelder: PAUL HETTICH GMBH & CO. D-32278 Kirchlengern (DE)

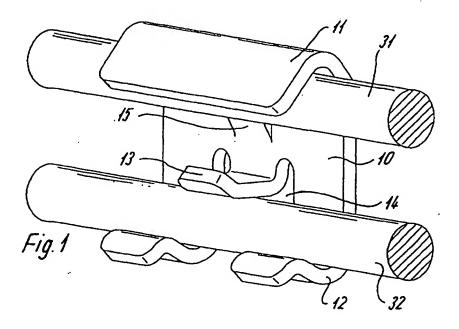
(72) Erfinder: Jährling, Peter 32257 Bünde (DE)

(74) Vertreter: Dantz, Jan Henning et al Jöllenbecker Strasse 164 33613 Bielefeld (DE)

#### (54)Schnellbefestigungselement

(57)Ein Schnellbefestigungselement (10) dient insbesondere zur Befestigung von Führungsschienen an gitterähnlichen Seitenteilen (30). Das Schnellbefestigungselement (10) umfaßt einen oberen Halteabschnitt (11), der eine erste Stange (31) eines Seitenteiles zumindest teilweise umgreift, und einen unteren Halteabschnitt (12), der eine im wesentlichen parallel zur ersten

Stange (31) verlaufende zweite Stange (32) des Seitenteiles zumindest teilweise umgreift. Erfindungsgemäß ist zwischen dem oberen und dem unteren Halteabschnitt eine Nase (13) vorgesehen, die an der oder den zweiten unteren Stange oder Stangen (32) des Seitenteiles anliegt. Das Schnellbefestigungselement ist sicher an dem Seitenteil gehalten und auch für unterschiedliche Gittertypen einsetzbar.





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08-05-2002

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# What is the quality of the hardwood resource?

Wood becomes a fashion statement

By Bob Rhodes, Publisher brhodes@randallpub.com

Our own contributing editor Fred Lamb, professor emeritus of the Department of Wood Science at Virginia Tech, says in many regions we now are harvesting younger, smaller diameter trees that are growing on poorer sites with lower intrinsic wood quality and greater variability.

"By quality I do not mean lumber grades, but rather intrinsic wood quality as related to industrial processing," explains Lamb in a conversation with *Modern Woodworking*. "This is the quality that dictates how the wood will dry, machine, glue, fasten and finish as well as other processing factors such as warp, shrinkage, grain characteristics and color."

From the viewpoint of industrial processing and manufacturing, Lamb believes the primary issue is timber quality, and then to a lesser extent, timber availability. He says we know how to grow and manage forests, and the forest community does it well. The issue is how much will we be able to harvest and where? How much of this volume that we are growing will we be able to use? "Unfortunately, this is as much a political and social issue as it is a biological and technical one," says Lamb. "How much of that volume growing will be available for commercial harvesting?"

Lamb says wood being processed today in manufacturing plants is more check-prone, more warp-prone, more stain prone, more prone to machining defects and is less forgiving of processing mistakes. "On top of all that," he continues, "today's wood also is more variable than in the past both within individual species such as hard maple or cherry and especially within species groups such as the red oaks or the white oaks. You have to pay more attention to it than before. Poorer quality also impacts rejection rate, which affects cost. In addition to this decrease in intrinsic quality and increase in variability, manufacturing is in

fact using lower grades of lumber more frequently than before. It is said jokingly (and not so jokingly) that we now are making furniture and cabinets out of wood that would have been in mine props, timbers or railroad ties 20 years ago."

Wood will be used more and more for fashiom reasons rather than functionality, says Lamb. "There are many materials besides wood that will hold up a dinner plate. As competing materials and composites come in, wood will have its greatest advantage as a fashion statement. Because off constantly changing styling trends along with a poorer quality-of-wood, manufacturers will haveto have flexible manufacturing systems. Manufacturers who are locked into traditional kinds off tooling will find it harder to respond to these kinds of changes and still be cost competitive. More CNC equipment, more machining centers that are capable of doing multiple kinds of operations rather than single machine systems that cam do only one thing will be required.

If you need to change over to a new product line because of poorer quality materials or changes in styling, will you be able to do it cost effectively with reduced set-up times and more versatile kinds of operations? Or is your manufacturing system so rigid in its configuration that your competitor will be able to make that product for less?

The challenge of production today is to designassemble the appropriate technology and operate a manufacturing facility to efficiently and effectively process at a profit an increasingly lower quality and more variable raw material, says Lamb. This means that manufacturing systems must be more accurate, more carefully controlled, operated with more attention to detail, and flexible enough to efficiently handle the changing product mix and changing raw material quality.